

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 157169

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, UR, US

SUBJECT: MOSCOW RADIO CRITICIZES AMBASSADOR TOON

REF: MOSCOW 9651

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MOSCOW RADIO BROADCAST IN ENGLISH
TO NORTH AMERICAN 2230 GMT 5 JULY.

2. QUOTE: (TEXT) TRADITIONALLY, ON 4 JULY, THE AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR IS INVITED TO APPEAR ON SOVIET TELEVISION ABOUT
INDEPENDENCE DAY AND GROWING SOVIET-AMERICAN COOPERATION.
THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, A GOOD TRADITION WAS BROKEN AND NOT
BECAUSE, AS THE AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA ARE ALLEGING, SOVIET
TELEVISION HAS REFUSED THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO ADDRESS
VIEWERS. ACTUALLY, THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR, MALCOLM
TOON, HAS SET FOR HIMSELF THE GOALS WHICH HAVE NOTHING IN
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COMMON WITH THE NATIONAL AMERICAN HOLIDAY AND WITH FRIEND-
SHIP AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN
PEOPLE. MR. TOON WISHED TO MAKE USE OF THE GOOD TRADITION
THAT EMERGED IN THE PROCESS OF EASING TENSION AND BETTER
SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, FOR THE GOALS CLEARLY ARE OTHER
THAN THOSE OF BRINGING THE PEOPLES OF BOTH COUNTRIES CLOSER
TOGETHER.

3. IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES BEING MOUNTED BY THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION IS SERIOUSLY DAMAGING THE PROCESS OF RELAXATION OF TENSION AND BETTER SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND HAMPERS PROGRESS IN SOLVING THE PRESSING QUESTIONS OF DISARMAMENT AND PROMOTING PEACE. THIS MAKES ONE WONDER WHY, ON THE DAY OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL HOLIDAY, THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR DECIDED TO TURN TO THIS CAMPAIGN AGAIN, IN THE TEXT OF HIS SPEECH PREPARED FOR A SOVIET TELEVISION AUDIENCE. FOR IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS HAD MALCOLM TOON'S SPEECH BEEN TELEVISED, IT WOULD HAVE STIRRED INDIGNATION AMONG THE SOVIET PUBLIC, WHICH WOULD HAVE DEMANDED A SPEECH WITH THE OUTLINE OF THE SOVIET STAND IN REPLY. SO IT'S CLEAR TO ALL THAT TRADITIONAL SPEECHES BY THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR IN CONNECTION WITH INDEPENDENCE DAY SHOULD PURSUE THE GOALS RATHER THAN STIRRING POLEMICS.

4. WE MAY RECALL THAT WHENEVER THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON AMERICAN TELEVISION, HIS ADDRESSES TO AMERICAN TELEVISION AUDIENCES ALWAYS CALL FOR UNDERSTANDING, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. AMBASSADOR MALCOLM TOON ABSTAINED FROM SPEAKING ON SOVIET TELEVISION ON THE DAY OF HIS COUNTRY'S NATIONAL HOLIDAY. THAT IS HIS BUSINESS.
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BUT IT HAPPENED NOT BECAUSE SOVIET TELEVISION WAS NOT WILLING TO GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK. YESTERDAY, ON 4 JULY, SOVIET TELEVISION MARKED THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE TELEVISION PROGRAM VREMYA, WHICH HAS AN AUDIENCE OF APPROXIMATELY 150 MILLION, BROADCAST INTERVIEWS WITH ORDINARY AMERICAN PEOPLE. WHAT THEY SAID LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SHARES THE DESIRE OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE TO PROMOTE SOVIET-AMERICAN COOPERATION FOR THE SAKE OF EASING TENSION AND FOR PEACE.
END QUOTE.

5. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES WE SHOULD HAVE NO PUBLIC COMMENT ON THIS BROADCAST, BUT LEAVES IT TO THE AMBASSADOR WHETHER HE WISHES TO HAVE THE EMBASSY PROTEST IN LOW KEY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. VANCE

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